The Biſhop of Cheſters Speech at Magdalen College, OXFORD; the 16th. of *November*, 1687.

YOur many contempts and wilful diſobedience have cauſed this Viſitation, which will end at laſt in your ruine. This ſociety of yours has been long exerciſed in the methods of quarrelling, has already been troubled with factious ſpirits, and teſty mutineers, ever ſince the reſtauration of the late King; you have encouraged quarrels among your ſelves, quarrels between your ſelves and Preſident, quarrels at length between your ſelves and Lord Viſitor; for I have often heard your late Viſitor, of pious memory, complain, that this Society was overſtock'd with an unquiet and turbulent generation. By theſe ſteps, from quarrelling with your Preſident, and Viſitor, you have at laſt advanced to the higheſt pitch of Inſolency, to quarrel with your Prince, and affront His Sacred Majeſty. I endeavoured before, at the opening our Commiſsion, to make you ſenſible of the ſcandal that your diſobedience would bring on your Religion. How much it would ſtain and diſhonour your liberal and ingenious Education in this

Society. You cannot but know that His Majeſty is the Supreme Ordinary; You cannot but have read in *Bracton* (who was 20 years Lord Chief Juſtice under *Henry* the Third) *Nemo præſumat de factis ejus diſquirere, nedum contra factum ejus venire*; All diſobedience implies pride; for no man can diſobey his Governour, but he who thinks himſelf wiſer. The reputation and honour of a Prince at home, and His reſpect abroad, are chief ſtandards of Government: but theſe Pillars (as much as in you lieth) you have endeavoured to ſhake; and unleſs His Majeſty's Honour be vindicated by us, he can neither expect to be ſerv'd at home, nor obſerv'd abroad. Your impunity cannot ſubſiſt with His Majeſty's Honour, but your puniſhment muſt be as publick as your crimes. It cannot be conceived how His Majeſty, in Honour, in Juſtice, in Clemency, and in His Royal tenderneſs could have proceeded otherwiſe than He has done. On the----- of *April* it was publiſhed, that Dr. *Clarke*, your Preſident was dead. On the----- a *Mandate* was directed to you for chooſing Mr. *Farmer*: On the ---- you preſented a Petition to the Lord Preſident, wherein you laid your ſelves proſtrate at His Majeſty's feet, repreſenting to Him the incapacity of Mr. *Farmer*, deſiring the benefit of His gracious declaration for the preſerving your Rights and Properties; and beſeeching Him to nominate another perſon qualified according to your Statutes; in the Election of whom you

you would ſhew a ready obedience. So ſaid, and ſo done, had been very well. But immediately after the delivering of this Petition, you not waiting His Majeſty's Anſwer, proceeded on *April* the 14*th* to the Election of Dr. *Hough*: So that by this Act (which was plainly contrary to His Majeſty's authority, whoſe *Mandate* did plainly imply a prohibition) you directly confronted your former promiſes of a ready obedience, and were reſolved to give the King nothing but good words. When you had done this, (as men of ill deſigns are alwaies in haſte) for a confirmation of it you immediately went and ſurpriſed your Viſitor, and by that means perſwaded him to confirm Dr. *Hough*, the very day he received an Order from the Lord Preſident to the *contrary*. Upon news whereof, the King was *very* much amazed, and required an account of *your* proceedings: whereupon the Lords Commiſſioners iſſued out a Citation; and after hearing *your Plea* (upon mature deliberation with the Learned both in the Common Law, and in the Civil) judged the pretended Election of Dr. *Hough* to be void and null, and him to be amov'd. This was ſignified to them by an Inſtrument, dated the--- which was fixed on the Gates. After this, on---- a *Mandate* was ſent to you to Elect the Biſhop of *Oxford*; Upon which terms His *Majeſty* was graciouſly pleaſed to diſpence with *your* diſobedience hitherto. But this being diſobeyed, His *Majeſty* in perſon, on

the 4th of *September* ſent for you to *Chriſt-Church*, and required you immediately to admit the Biſhop of *Oxford* Preſident; You went ſtraight to the Chappel, (a place, *one would think*, ſhould have inſpired more *devotion* and awe of *His Sacred Majeſty into you*) and there *contemptuouſly* ſubſcribed and ſigned a Paper directly thwarting *His Majeſty's Command.* And *Conſcience*, the *State Topick for Rebellion*, was here *brought to vindicate your petulant* and *contumacious behaviour.* You pretended that *you* were obliged by Oaths; and I am ſorry at the ſame time you forgot that of *Allegiance.* And indeed there is nothing a greater ſign of *hypocriſie* than partial Obedience; Had you any due reſpect to the Father of *your Countrey*, you *would* have Sacrificed your pretended ſcruples, as a peace offering to the King, the beſt of us I am ſure have reaſon to beg God and the King's Pardon, but you as if his Majeſty Reigned by courteſie, would have a King under but not over you, and urged the obſervance of your Statutes, of which you have not bin ſuch conſtant obſervers. When your own humour prompts you to a diſpenſation, then you can readily embrace it, as witneſs your ſuffering women Servants in the *Colledge* Contrary to the Statute, by reaſon of which much Scandal has bin given by this *Society*, upon the account of the many Baſtards that are Got here; but when the King interpoſes (in whoſe power *alone* it is to diſpence with them) then you preſently act accor-

according to ſuch methods as theſe, but theſe pretences will not excuſe you, with wiſe and ſober men; this was the only oppoſition his Majeſty met with in his progreſs; where ever his Sacred perſon came he worked a miraculous converſion (except in *Oxford*) and ſo far ſatisfied every one with the Equity of his proceedings that none went away diſcontented from his preſence, unleſs it were for this reaſon that they could enjoy it no Longer. On *October* the 20*th* we came down and upon opening our Commiſion, I took care to repreſent to you the heinousneſs of your crime, and to perſwade you to a ſerious Repentance, but all in vain, for on *Sunday* morning we required you to admit, and Inſtal the Biſhop of *Oxford*, which all except three refuſed, in the *Afternoon* Dr. *Hough* (having bin deprived and by us Commanded to leave the *Colledge*) came into our Company without asking Leave, But not without great attendance (circumſtances I think much unbefitting a man expelled)and then entred a proteſtation againſt all that we had don, or ſhould hereafter doe ,as Illegal, unjuſt, and Null,which he delivered not in writing but by word of mouth (a thing repugnant to the nature of all appeals) and which was worſe without the uſual Salvo, and his Majeſties ſupreme power, when he had ſpoken, there followed ſuch a tumultuous ſeditious and Inſolent *Humm*, which if you your ſelves had not applauded, or at leaſt conſented to , it was impoſſible

but

but you would have diſcovered ſome of thoſe turbulent mutineers. However ſince his carriage and Language gave occaſion to it, it was thought fit, that he only ſhould be obnoxious and accordingly he was bound over. On *Tueſday* we our ſelves cauſed the Biſhop of *Oxford* to be enſtaled by his proxy, after which we propoſed to you (whether being now enſtalled by virtue of his Majeſties mandate) you would ſubmit to him, in *licetis* & *honeſtis* to which (after ſome Conſultation) you gave your Anſwer in the affirmative, you then alſo deſired of us that we would repreſent your caſe favourable to his Majeſty giving all aſſurance of your Loyalty and Obedience; but this appearance of ſubmiſſion Laſted not long, for on *Thurſday* being required of us to ſubſcribe ſuch a ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty as we thought agreeable to your duty, you required time to conſult about it, and after deliberation ſigned ſuch a paper as ſeemed rather to be a proteſtation againſt the former ſubmiſſion, then an acknowledgment of your Crime. Upon this we might juſtly have proceeded to expulſion then, but we thought fit in compaſſion to you, to take a journy to *London*, to acquaint his moſt Gracious Majeſty of your diſobedience and ungrateful behaviour, his Majeſty was greatly amazed that his clemency ſhou'd be deſpiſed; but yet (to your comfort be it ſpoken) his patience and goodneſs extended as far as your provocations can, but if you ſtill perſiſt in this your obſtinacie

nacy thoſe that are too Tall to ſtand & too ſtubborn to bend, deſerve to be broaken and ſo I think I have ſaid enough to let you know that the Fig-leaves you have ſo artificialy ſtitched together, are not ſufficent to cover your nakedneſs, I wiſh to God you had the ſame tenderneſs, for your own concerns, that his Majeſties Commiſſioners have for you, but if you ſtill continue to oppoſe the Royal power, We who are come to vindicate the Right and Honour of his Majeſty, are reſolved to diſcharge our conſciences and duty to God and the King without any reſpect to Popularity; Popularitie the Paradice of Fools, but the ſcorn of wiſe men. As for us we have no more regard to the peoples diſlike than to what they dream, by reaſon therefore of your Late hipocritical ſubmiſſion the Court has thought fit, upon mature conſultation, to draw up an Inſtrument which ſhall be read to you which if you ſhall immediatly ſubſcribe before you Leave the Roome, we ſhall leave you to his Majeſties Pardon, and This we expect from you all, except Dr. *Tho: Smith.* and Mr. *Charhock* with whoſe behaviour The King is ſo well ſatisfied that he expects nothing further from them.

FINIS.

Licenſed, Jan. *the* 16*th.* 1687.